

T E N N E S S E E ' S B A P T I S T REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

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this
week's
news

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Of staff members

TBC, AB partner to improve wellness

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The cost for medical insurance has risen dramatically over the past few years.

Just for employees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, premiums have almost doubled over the past two years, according to Garnette Hogan, human resources manager for the TBC.

To help reduce health care costs, the TBC Executive Board staff, along with staff members of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, have joined a pilot program launched by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, based in Dallas.

"In the fall of 2001, we learned from our Annuity Board regional director that the Annuity Board employees would be participating in a Living Well program in 2002 with an emphasis on helping their employees positively change unhealthy lifestyles, improve performance and productivity, improve morale, and reduce long-term health care costs," Hogan said.

She noted the Annuity Board was looking for a state convention to help pilot the



HOGAN



PORCH

concept and that TBC Executive Director James Porch contacted the board to let them know the TBC would be interested in helping to pilot the program.

"This created a little friendly competition between Texas and Tennessee," Hogan observed.

And after the first stage of the Living Well program, which involved employees participating in a "personal wellness profile," the TBC is ahead with a participation of 83 percent compared to 70 percent for the Annuity Board.

The profile was designed to help participants identify areas of their lifestyle, which if they made a change, could affect their health now and in the future, Hogan noted.

"This included a health screening fair which will be repeated in February 2003. These results have been returned to each

individual with suggestions on how to improve their health," she said.

The wellness profile rated the risk for coronary problems and cancer, and how the employee ranks as far as stress management, nutrition, fitness, and more.

Doug Day, executive officer for benefit services at the Annuity Board, observed that there are certain types of health problems that could be prevented with exercise and proper nutrition.

He said the Annuity Board, as the agency that deals with health insurance, wanted to take the lead in trying to prevent potential health problems. "We want to walk the talk," Day said.

Day also noted the Annuity Board wants to work with other SBC agencies and state conventions to bring "national attention to wellness among Southern Baptists."

He said the agency wants to get across the message that "if we can change a lifestyle it will make a difference."

Among simple lifestyle changes that employees of both the Annuity Board and Tennessee Baptist Convention are being asked to consider include walking stairs — See TBC, page 2

House votes 408-0 for bill to protect housing allowance

By Tom Strode
for Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives weighed in on the legality of a tax exemption on the housing tax exemption for clergy April 16, approving without opposition a bill designed to preserve the long-standing allowance.

The House voted 408-0 for the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act, H.R. 4156. The bill would clarify the exemption by amending the Internal Revenue Code to make clear the allowance should not exceed the "fair rental value" of a house, including "furnishings, appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities." The bill would codify the revenue ruling which the IRS had been using for years.

A Senate version of the legislation has not been introduced, but senators could consider the house-approved measure.

The House acted on the bill only six days after it was introduced by Rep. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn. (see story in April 17 issue of *B&R*). The speed with which representatives moved came in reaction to a threat by a federal appeals court to strike down the allowance as unconstitutional.

A panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced in March it is reviewing the constitutionality of the allowance, even though neither side in the related case challenged the exemption.

Lawyers from the SBC's Executive Committee, Annuity Board, and Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission have worked to see the exemption is preserved.

"It is important to get this in the black-letter law and thereby put the full force of Congress behind the clergy housing allowance," said Richard Land, president of the ERLC. ■



Annual drama festival draws about 700

Members of Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, from left, Andrea Keck, Jessica Campbell, and Sarah Purkey, get hands-on experience in their craft, puppetry. The teens participated in the annual state Dramatic Arts Festival April 12-13 at Creeview Baptist Church, Nashville. See more on the festival on page 11.

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Day of Prayer set for VBS

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Day of Prayer for 2002 Vacation Bible School is set for Sunday, May 19.

On that day, pastors are encouraged to remind their congregations of the important part Vacation Bible School can play in their lives of their churches.

"We encourage pastors to use this day as a time to commission VBS workers," said Becky Martin, VBS ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. She added that other promotional ideas are available in the 2002 VBS Director's Planning Guide.

"It is urgent for pastors to see the value of VBS and hold up its potential to reach a lost world," Martin said. "The number of decisions to accept Christ made during VBS each year usually equals about 25 percent of the baptisms reported each year on the Annual Church Profile."

Churches can go to the 2002 VBS website prayer calendar at www.lifeway/yourvbs/calendar.asp to add their churches to the VBS prayer list. Churches can also use this list to pray for other churches that are having VBS.

and other fun, low cost activities. Both the Annuity Board and

— Continued from page 1 instead of taking the elevator, eating healthier snacks,

TBC, AB partner to improve wellness ...

— Continued from page 1 instead of taking the elevator, eating healthier snacks,



MARK ANDERSON of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes chats with Tamara Quintana of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board as she checks his blood pressure. He is participating in a pilot project sponsored by the TBC Executive Board and the Annuity Board.

"We want churches to know that we here at LifeWay are praying for them," Martin said. "VBS is about much more than ordering the materials. It's about people coming to know Christ." ■

New convention launched in Mo.

Associated Baptist Press

BRIDGETON, Mo. — Saying they are tired of denominational politics in the Missouri Baptist Convention, 350 Southern Baptists met April 19-20 in suburban St. Louis to launch the —Baptist General Convention of Missouri.

"It's going to be a convention for people who don't want to fight anymore," said Randy Fullerton, who presided over the meeting. Fullerton is pastor of Fee Fee Baptist Church in Bridgeton, Mo., the host church for the organizational meeting.

The new convention's vision statement says in part, "We desire to leave the strife and conflict of the past behind and move forward as we seek to fulfill the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations."

The new group pledges "to be inclusive in our fellowship" and to provide financial support for the Southern Baptist Convention and "all our Missouri Baptist institutions."

While the convention "will welcome inquiries and requests for information" from churches and individuals, "we do not intend to actively recruit congregations," the vision statement also says.

"We desire to leave the strife and move forward, even if that means walking backward into the future," Jim Hill, former executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, said in describing the new convention's vision.

The group, formed in part to support agencies defunded by the Missouri Baptist Convention, ratified a basic Cooperative Program budget of \$4 million, with 35.75 percent, or about \$1.4 million, earmarked for national and international causes of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC is expected to refuse gifts from the new convention, however. While the denomination recognizes breakaway conservative conventions in two states, Executive Committee President Morris Chapman has indicated he will recommend against doing the same with the new Missouri convention, saying it competes with the conservative-led Missouri Baptist Convention.

"If you choose to join this convention and you want to remain a Southern Baptist church, you can do that very simply," said Sondra Allen, the new convention's secretary.

The convention will advise member churches to deduct 35.75 percent of their monthly Cooperative Program contribution — the same amount forwarded to SBC causes by the Missouri Baptist Convention — and send it directly to denominational headquarters in Nashville.

"In doing so, you would still be sending money to the SBC," said Allen, a member of First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Mo. "You would still be a Southern Baptist." ■

Court's decision on child porn a 'dark day,' says Land

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court dealt Congress a defeat in the legislative effort to curb child pornography.

The justices announced April

16 they had voted to invalidate portions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act, a 1996 federal law that expanded a ban on child porn to include images that appear to be of children under 18 engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

The high court voted 6-3 to strike down a provision that banned visual-generated, including computer-generated, images that appear to be of minors engaged in explicit sex. The court, with Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor joining the majority, voted 7-2 against a section that prohibited sexually explicit images that are promoted or presented as involving children.

The two provisions under consideration restrict legal speech thereby making them "overbroad and unconstitutional," Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority.

Opponents of child pornography chastised the justices.

"This decision by the Supreme Court marks a dark day for the court and an even darker day for the nation's children," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "This egregious and dangerous decision is one sad illustration of the extent to which we have become a society that champions the so-called rights and privileges of adults over the protection and welfare of children."

Attorney General John Ashcroft expressed disappointment with the ruling, saying it made the Justice Department's "ability to prosecute those who produce and possess child pornography immeasurably more difficult." ■



LAND

According to pastor

'God's love builds church' in Friendsville



MEMBERS OF First Baptist Church, Friendsville, recently dedicated their new sanctuary.

Lonnie Wilkey
Pastor and Reflector

FRIENDSVILLE — "God's love is building First Baptist Church," affirmed Pastor Mark Grubb.

That's the reason he gives for the growth of a church in the small town of Friendsville, located near Maryville.

When Grubb arrived on the scene in August of 1996, the church had about 80-85 people and Sunday School, he recalled.

The choir had about 10 members and there were only four or seven young people making up the congregation that he remembered.

The church now has a rising membership of more than 100 and an average Sunday school attendance of about 100, according to Grubb.

It has been phenomenal to see how God has worked here," Grubb said in a recent interview.

God has brought the people through Friendsville itself is small, the community around it is growing rapidly.

Paul Long, a deacon at the church, observed it is developing into a regional congregation as members drive in from Ridge (about 30 miles

away) and west Knoxville (about 20 miles away).

Reaching community

Despite the addition of people from beyond Friendsville, the church also has begun to attract more of the local residents.

"We knew we had to be more concerned about our community," he said.

A tragedy about one year ago brought the community and church closer together, Grubb noted.

A little girl who attended the church was killed in a bicy-

cle accident. The church housed and fed family members who came in for the funeral.

"Through that tragedy, an act of God began to band the community and church together," Grubb said.

"People saw we're not here to build an empire, but that we want to reach out and help."

Grubb said there are a lot of needs still to be met. The church has begun a Divorce Care group to reach out to single parents.

Discipleship Training was

moved to Wednesday nights and attendance in March averaged about 240 people, Grubb said.

Traditional worship

Grubb said First Baptist dispels the myth that traditional churches cannot grow.

"The buzz word now is contemporary," the pastor said.

"We're pretty traditional here even though we do a blended style of music. We are conservative theologically and in methods."

While experts say churches have to become contemporary

in order to grow, "we have not done that," Grubb affirmed.

Miracles take place

Grubb observed that God "has performed miracles" in his nearly six years at First Baptist by opening up avenues for the church to acquire land and to build.

When he became pastor, the church basically was land-locked. "The day I came six acres behind the church went on sale," Grubb said.

The church bought that property and some additional land later. The property has grown from two acres to 10, he said.

A few years ago the church began phase one of a building campaign which included a new sanctuary and office space.

The new \$2 million facility was dedicated early this year, Grubb said.

He shared how God helped finance the project. A non-member from another denomination visited the church at Christmas in 1998, the pastor related. His wife had grown up in First Baptist and they were visiting during the holidays.

As the couple was returning to their home in Memphis, the man felt impressed to invest in the church, Grubb said. He pledged to give the church \$250,000 over a period of several years.

To date, the church has received \$200,000 of that pledge, Grubb reported.

God has blessed

Grubb said the church will continue to reach out and offer a place where people can come to know God. "We live in a hurting world that needs the touch of Jesus," he said.

"We try to be a healing place for hurting people."

Grubb gives credit to a staff he says "God put together" — Bobby Nick, minister of music and Doug Garner, minister of students. Both were former high school football teammates of Grubb when he attended high school in nearby Maryville where his father served for 25 years as pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church.

He also appreciates the deacons and other leaders at First Baptist. "We have unique leadership. We made a covenant to communicate, work with each other, and to love each other," he stressed.

"I am overwhelmed by what God has done," the pastor said. "God has blessed. That's the bottom line." ■

Real life 'prodigal' son returns 'home' to minister

Lonnie Wilkey
Pastor and Reflector

FRIENDSVILLE — Pastor Mark Grubb of First Baptist Church here can finitely relate to the parable of the prodigal son in the New Testament.

By his own admission, he once was a "prodigal son."

As a teenager and young adult he admits he caused a lot of grief to his parents, Glenn and Kathleen Grubb. The elder Grubb, now retired, was then pastor

of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in nearby Maryville.

Grubb noted that he was involved in drugs and alcohol and basically lived a life filled with crime and violence.

He definitely is not proud of what he did, but he knows he is where he is today simply because of God's grace and two parents who never gave up on him or stopped praying for him.

Grubb's lifestyle caused him and his dad friction in his life even after he accepted Christ in 1979, and began to put his life back together. He went on to attend California Baptist College in Riverside and later to New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He went on to serve as a pastor in Calhoun, Ga. While there he attended a MasterLife Conference at New Orleans seminary. Grubb recalled that after the call the instructor came up to him and said he sensed Grubb had a wound in his life that had never healed.

"He told me he thought that wound was with my dad," Grubb recalled. And it was, he admitted. That professor laid hands on Grubb and prayed while the young man wept.

Grubb returned to Calhoun and the next day his dad called him, he related.

"My dad told me he loved me. He had not done that before."

God healed that wound, Grubb

said. Now he and his dad enjoy a good relationship.

After serving in Georgia and later in Kingsport at Higher Ground Baptist Church where he was associate pastor/administrator, Grubb returned "home," or at least to the hometown of his wife, Alisa.

"I never thought I would return to my home county. God brought me back," he affirmed.

Grubb's parents are now members of his church. His mom attends faithfully and his dad is always there when he is not preaching somewhere else, Grubb said.

Grubb shared a humorous story about his dad. One day while preaching he looked out and saw his dad's head nodding. After the service Grubb teased his dad about going to sleep during his preaching. The elder Grubb apologized and noted he was tired from working outside the week before. His son responded: "You don't owe me an apology. I did it to you for 30 years."

Both parents are very supportive of his ministry, he noted. He also has the support of his three brothers and a sister. One brother, Walter, is president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour.

"God has healed me from my past," Grubb said with conviction. He now uses his experiences to help others.

"My ministry here has been one of encouragement and healing," he said. ■

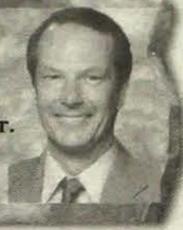


MARK GRUBB, pastor of First Baptist Church, Friendsville, knows firsthand how God can heal hurting relationships and he uses his experiences as a rebellious teenager in his ministry.

True worshipers worship in 'spirit and truth'

assisting churches

by Paul Clark Jr.
TBC staff



Gather a group of music ministers, pastors, worship leaders nowadays and you will likely hear the question, "What style of worship do you have in your church?" The terms "contemporary, traditional, praise and worship, liturgical, blended" are used most often in our day to describe our worship services, although all of these terms are subject to wide interpretation.

One of the exciting things happening in many churches today is an attempt to define and understand worship. Churches are talking about worship. Many congregations have worship mission statements, or philosophy statements printed in their worship guides and other church publications. In some instances those statements may be to specify their worship distinctives, and in others it may be to identify their worship form with other congregations like them. Regardless, there is value in examining the form and substance of our worship. The attitude of just "having

church" is the antithesis of worship "in spirit and in truth."

For many congregations sweeping changes in worship materials have been implemented because their weekly worship services had grown stale. In fact, the worship may have grown stale because the spiritual life of the worshipers had grown stale. A vibrant congregation will likely sing the oldest hymn with great enthusiasm. In many instances format and style have been changed in an attempt to interject life into something that lacked vitality and a sense of genuineness. It would appear that in some instances these changes have helped to wake up worshipers. In other instances change in format and style have only served to exacerbate the problem. The fundamental need is for there to be genuine life in worship. True worshipers worship "in spirit and truth."

Fundamentally, worship is our response to God's revelation of Himself. Calling this response and interaction "worship" implies a recognition that God is greater than us, and that we must recognize His worth in response to who He is. This would seem basic to any definition of worship. If the act of worship is the genuine response of our congregation and those gathered with

us in a given moment, or period of time, to God, then our expression will be unique, even as we use resources from other times and places. We cannot have someone else's experience. The response is "Lord, here am I," not "Lord, here is Willow Creek," or "Lord, here is Coral Ridge." Only Willow Creek can respond for Willow Creek. Only Coral Ridge can worship as Coral Ridge. There is no such thing as copycat worship. We may have similarities with other congregations. We may use some of the same material, or be accompanied by a similar combination of instruments in our music, but only you can be you. The wonderful truth is that God wants your church to be who He has made it to be uniquely. I believe that being genuine in our worship is the only posture acceptable to a Holy God.

A Worship Conference In Spirit and Truth will be held at ClearView Baptist Church in Franklin on Friday and Saturday, May 10-11. The conference will give pastors, music ministers, sound and video tech workers, choir and praise band leaders, and creative arts leaders an opportunity for training, idea-sharing, and inspiration relative to their responsibilities in facilitating worship in their churches. The conference is being planned by the Worship &

Music team of the TBC staff aided by a coordination team. The coordinators have enlisted faculty and planned conferences in four major areas. Andre Dugger, pastor at Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, is coordinator for the preaching track. Pat Van Dyke, minister of music and worship at First Baptist Church, Clarksville, is coordinating the music track. Tim Spencer, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Collierville, is coordinating the tech track. Todd Starnes, writer for Baptist Press is coordinating the creative arts track. Keynote speaker for the event will be Paul Basden, who has just completed his pastorate at Brookwood Baptist Church, Birmingham, and is planting a new church in Frisco, Texas.

The conference is not geared to any one "style" of worship, but will reflect the practice and expertise of those leading breakout and plenary sessions. It is the hope of the organizers that exposure to different practices will spark ideas that can be applicable in the church settings of the participants in a way that will be meaningful to those worshipers. Individual conferences will include everything from a preaching conference, "Same Message-New Methods" led by former TBC President Jerry Tidwell to a tech track conference on "In-



roduction to Video Projection led by TBC specialist, Raymond Smith, to a music conference "Powerful Congregation Singing" led by Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Nashville, to a conference on "Drama Resources for Worship" led by Todd Starnes. In all there will be more than 30 individual conferences available to those in attendance in addition to the plenary sessions that will feature Basden, the Judson Baptist Church, Nashville choir and orchestra, a chamber vocal ensemble from Fore Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, a worship team from ClearView, and a dance troop from Brentwood Methodist Church.

For registration information call Charlotte Hanson at 800-558-2090, ext 7908. Clark is worship/music specialist in the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group. Portions of this article were reprinted from *Church Musician Today*, October 2001. Copyright 2001, LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.



Excellent word

Many thanks for the excellent word from TBC President Kevin Shrum (April 13 *Baptist and Reflector*) in support of quality Christian education. I believe that it is incumbent upon all of our leaders to support all the work of our convention to the best of their abilities, so I applaud this leadership stand.

As I have often said, it would be possible for the local churches standing alone to do much of the work we do through the state convention without a state convention, but it would be very difficult for most of our churches to start and provide quality Christian higher education without a convention.

The local church must evangelize, minister to the needy, and carry out the missions im-

perative. I do not believe we could equal working alone the quality of all our Executive Board ministries in evangelism, missions, and so forth. They are a tremendous help to our churches. However, we would certainly fall short in providing education with the quality of our Baptist institutions in Tennessee. While many of us give through the Cooperative Program knowing we are supporting a variety of causes, we are especially committed to supporting Baptist higher education in Tennessee.

We believe it is carrying to a high degree the command of Jesus to teach people to observe all things he has commanded. President Shrum's emphasis on the value of a Christian worldview is most helpful at this point.

As the parent of two children who have benefited from Christian higher education in Tennessee and as an alumnus of Baptist institutions in other states, I believe we can trust our ad-

ministrators and faculties to provide something unique in comparison to secular schools, something differing yet special in comparison to each other, and something that is pleasing to God in the search for God's truth and the living out of that truth in everyday life.

Charles Parker, pastor
First Baptist Church
Jacksboro 37757

Come and share

Come to St. Louis and share the gospel during Crossover St. Louis 2002. Seven associations

in the metropolitan St. Louis area are working together to conduct Crossover evangelistic events prior to the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. We have a great need for volunteers to help us in Kindness Explosion, block parties, door-to-door surveys, and street evangelism.

We invite anyone who is coming to the Southern Baptist Convention to come early and help our churches reach their area for Jesus. Training will be done on the evening of June 7 and all evangelistic events will take place on Sat-

urday, June 8. We can use individuals and groups of people from the churches to help. All volunteers will be sent a letter of assignment after they receive their registration.

If you are already coming to St. Louis for the convention, why not come for the week prior to the SBC annual meeting and help share the gospel in our area. Please register by calling our volunteer office at (314) 569-1190, or by e-mail at dechols@stlbaptists.org.

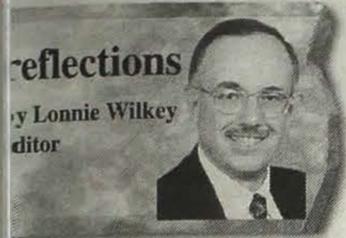
Benny King, I
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Baptist Association

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Baptist Church, Lenoir C



Stop the rhetoric, focus on the lottery



Reflections
by Lonnie Wilkey
Editor

The war of words has begun the fight to keep Tennessee gambling free. In the April 13 issue of *The Tennessean*, the headline read, "Lottery foes will take aim at Senator Cohen." The story was based on documents which were "leaked" to *The Tennessean*. I later discovered the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* also received the material. Basically the primary document given to the papers was a draft of a "strategic plan" for the Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance. The draft did note that Steve Cohen, who has led efforts to bring a lottery into Tennessee for more than a decade, was a "politician you cannot trust." As one might expect, Sen. Cohen came out fighting. Cohen, however, added a feature mentioned nowhere in any document given to the newspapers. He said the "anti-lottery

group's plan 'shows desperation' and believes it to be a 'not-so-veiled' attack on his Judaism," according to *The Tennessean* article.

He later was quoted, "The only basis is that I'm Jewish. That's the only thing to go after me with. Nothing else fits. The only thing that fits is that I'm different from them as far as religion."

Whoa! No one affiliated with GFTA, especially the Baptists involved with the group, to my knowledge, have ever said anything about Sen. Cohen's Jewish background. If they ever have, shame on them.

We need to stick to the issue of the lottery and its impact on Tennessee.

To further complicate matters, Gov. Don Sundquist wrote a letter to the editor in the April 15 issue of *The Tennessean* blasting GFTA for their "nasty whisper campaign" against Sen. Cohen.

In the letter, Gov. Sundquist wrote, "I call on anti-lottery campaign organizers to denounce this tactic, to apologize to Sen. Cohen, and to debate the lottery issue on its merit, not through personal attacks, ugliness, and innuendo."

I agree wholeheartedly with Gov. Sundquist's call to debate the lottery issue on its merit.

Unfortunately, Gov. Sundquist appears to not know all the facts. Sen. Cohen has twisted a document that was never intended to be public to make himself appear a martyr.

He is far from innocent. Sen. Cohen has been quoted in newspapers all over this state giving out information about GFTA that simply is not accurate.

Here is just one example. The *Chattanooga Free Press* reported Feb. 3 that Sen. Cohen and a Mr. Geddings (first name not given), campaign director for the recently implemented lottery in South Carolina, said GFTA would have the fat wallet, stuffed in part by the contributions of Mississippi casinos that have a vested interest in defeating Tennessee's lottery initiative, according to the article.

There is no validity to that line of thinking.

Understand that GFTA is an independent organization chaired by former U.S. Ambassador to France Joe M. Rodgers. The Tennessee Baptist Convention and other denominations are supporting its

efforts. While Baptists do not control GFTA we do have some influence. Among the members of GFTA's board of directors are James Porch, TBC executive director; Paul Durham, pastor, Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville (and treasurer of GFTA); Candy Phillips, Tennessee WMU president; Bobbie Patray, a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church; and Ivy Scarborough, an attorney from Jackson.

There is no doubt in my mind that if GFTA had ever accepted money from casinos or planned to, Tennessee Baptist involvement would cease at that point. It has not happened and will not happen.

Durham confirmed this. He told me in a phone conversation, "As the treasurer of GFTA, we have refused and will not accept any and all monies or support from outside the state of Tennessee."

We should not get into any war of words with Sen. Cohen or anyone else about the lottery. We do have an obligation, however, to correct any misinformation.

The issue is not Sen. Cohen. The issue is the lottery and the lottery alone.

I talked with Dr. Porch



about the matter after the articles came out and he reiterated his stance that we need to stay focused on the issue.

"Our intention from day one has been to focus attention entirely on the lottery and to educate Tennessee Baptists by disseminating information so our people can make wise, educated choices. At no point do Tennessee Baptists intend to get into personalities."

Amen! We can't undo what has been printed in papers across the state. But we can do our part by trying to avoid any more clashes with Sen. Cohen or anyone else for that matter.

Let us not be distracted by smoke screens. The issue is not the people involved in the lottery fight. The issue is the lottery itself and the negative impact it will have on our state if approved on Nov. 5.

The lottery can be defeated if we band together with others and stay focused. Our state has a lot to lose if we don't. ■

GFTA leaders are committed to fighting the lottery with integrity



Guest Columnist
by Bobbie Patray

Editor's Note: Bobbie Patray is president of Tennessee Eagle and is a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville. She has been active in leading the fight against the lottery for many years. She is a member of the board of directors of Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance. The following is a message she wrote to people involved with the Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance after the news articles regarding the Alliance and Sen. Steve Cohen. I thought it would be helpful for Tennessee Baptists to hear the perspective of "one of our own" who is a member of GFTA.

During my prayer time yesterday morning (April 16), I was thinking that it had never occurred to me to pray for the security of our plans and documents.

Then I was looking down the GFTA Prayer Guide only to see item 13: Evil and deception will be exposed.

"There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known" (Matthew 10:26).

"He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts" (I Corinthians 4: 5b).

Granted, what I had in mind was what tactics might be used against the anti-lottery campaign, but it would seem that what has been "hidden" and now has been "exposed" is that there might be a problem in our own camp. Although it is possible that the GFTA material got into the hands of the opponents through some sort of "accidental route."

At any rate, the public results are the same and should bring home to each of us the full real-

ization of what is at stake here. This is both earthly and spiritual warfare at its most intense. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12-13). The future of Tennessee and the quality of life we enjoy in a gambling free state, is at stake.

The proposed Strategic Plan, one of the documents in question, was presented to the board of directors of GFTA last December. Some changes have been made, other parts have not even been revisited since that time.

It would seem that GFTA should be judged on what GFTA has done, not on a small part of a lengthy proposal from last year.

Look at the print piece, look at the web site, look at what was said on the fly around, look

at the video. NOTHING in any of this could be considered objectionable to ANYONE. Before anything is done, it is brought to the board for approval. Early on GFTA made a commitment to act with integrity and will continue with that commitment.

From the very beginning, one of the intended hallmarks of GFTA has been accountability. On the front of our print piece is a "guarantee of accuracy" which invites inspection. There is nothing wrong or "un-Christian" for holding the lottery proponents accountable for what they say and do. That should only make for a level playing field.

The faith tradition of the lottery proponents has NEVER even been addressed or men-

tioned. It is totally irrelevant. The object is to defeat the lottery.

Having the governor now weigh in on this is disappointing. Calling on GFTA to "apologize" when GFTA has done nothing to apologize for is more than puzzling. It is not GFTA who has compared the non-gambling states to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran and compared lottery opponents to the "Taliban." There is no "political terrorism" going on.

All that being said, if ever there was a time for intense prayer, this is certainly that time. Perhaps Psalms 91 is appropriate. The bottom line is that GFTA must be extricated from this quagmire and get on with the job of defeating the lottery. ■



Having copies of our internal documents from more than one source given to the "right" representatives of two major newspapers right at the time that the GFTA videos have gone out to churches is profoundly unfortunate, at best. But perhaps the intensity of the resulting public flap brings us face to face with the reality of the depth and breadth of the battle before

deaths

■ **Judy Bennett**, children's ministry director, Calvary Baptist Church, Erwin, died April 14. She served the church for about 15 years. Bennett also was a leader of children's ministry for Holston Baptist Association for many years. She is survived by her husband, Tim, who is associate pastor and director of Christian education and youth at Calvary Church.

leaders

■ **Carl Strickler**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fall Branch, was honored on his retirement Feb. 24. He has served the church for two and a half years. The church called **Ron Saffles** of Cleveland as pastor, effective March 1. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

■ Whorton Springs Baptist Church, Smithville, called **David Mahan** as pastor, effective March 31. He has served as pastor of Oaklawn Baptist Church, Crossville, and associate pastor of Pine Eden Baptist Church, Crossville.

tist Church, Crossville.

■ **Fellowship Baptist Church, Bartlett**, has called **John "Larry" Phillips** as pastor. Phillips is a practicing attorney who earned a masters of divinity degree from Mid-America Baptist Seminary, Germantown, in 1982. He has served as pastor of churches in Illinois, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

churches

■ **Trinity Baptist Church, Jonesborough**, is using its new facilities, which includes an office suite, worship center, and education space.

■ Members of **Oak Grove Baptist Church, Milan, Northside Baptist Church, Milan, and Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis**, will serve in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa, May 20-30.

■ The children's choir of **Bakers Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet**, will present the musical "The Good News Cruise" May 5 at 6 p.m. Lacey Wilkins and Donna Wagers direct the choir.

■ **Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage**, will

hold a Month of Missions in April. Speakers include Lloyd Blackwell of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, and Nate Adams of the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga. The church will begin a Habitat for Humanity house and hold a missions fair. For more information, contact the church at (615) 883-5034 or www.hermitagehillsbaptist.com.

■ **Tom's Creek Baptist Church, Linden**, will hold revival April 24-28. Phil Mitchell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Adamsville, will speak.

■ **First Baptist Church, Tellico Village**, will begin meeting in its new facility May 5. A service of dedication will be held May 19 at 2 p.m.

■ **Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will break ground April 28 at 11:15 a.m. for its new facility at its new 25-acre site. The sanctuary will seat 1,000 and can be expanded to seat 1,400. The facility will be 78,500 square feet. For more information, contact the church at salembaptist@mail.tds.net or (865) 922-3490.

■ **Trinity Baptist Church, Clarksville**, dedicated its new 5,000-square-foot facility April 21 at 3:45 p.m. The

facility includes education space, a fellowship hall, and expansion of the sanctuary. The church received a loan of \$200,000 from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood, for the project, reported John Mark Thomas, pastor. For more information, contact the pastor at brojohnmark.trinitybaptistclarckville.org.

■ **Northside Baptist Church, Clarksville**, will hold homecoming and begin its revival May 5. Former pastor Bob Mitchell, a police chaplain in Clarksville, and Dennis Puley, director of missions, Cumberland Baptist Association, will speak. Also a luncheon will be held. The church is seeking information on former pastors Gary Hamilton, Charlie Cox, Lawrence Suiter, Jerry Kellameyer, and Ken Fraley. For more information, call the church at (931) 645-8070.

■ **Una Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold the Southeast Nashville Singles Conference May 3-5. Brent Gambrell, humorist, will speak. For more information, call (615) 361-5775.

■ **Cross Bridges Baptist Church, Bridges**, will hold Creation or Evolution: Origin of Life led by Mike Riddle of the Institute for Creation Research May 5 at 6 p.m. Also the church will hold revival May 6-9. Thomas Mattox will speak.

■ **First Baptist Church, Hillsboro**, will hold revival April 28 - May 1. Carl Bond, retired director of missions, Giles Baptist Association, will speak.

As church secretaries

Mother/daughter share common ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — In what may have been a first for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Secretaries Association, a mother and daughter, secretaries at two different churches, attended the meeting together.

Virginia Stephens, secretary at First Baptist Church, Trenton, for 11 years, has attended several of the conferences in the 20-year history of the Association. It was a different story for her daughter, however.

Kay Carroll has been a church secretary for just six months at First Baptist Church, Dyer, where she is a member. She was attending her first conference.

It was a "special" experience for both as they attended and roomed together.

Both mother and daughter love their work and view their jobs as ministry positions.

"It is a ministry," affirmed Stephens, whose husband, Marlon, is pastor of China Grove Baptist Church, Rutherford.

"You never know who you will come into contact with or who you can help along the way," she said.



VIRGINIA STEPHENS, left, and her daughter, **Kay Carroll**, attended the recent secretaries conference in Brentwood together. Stephens serves at First Baptist Church, Trenton, while Carroll is secretary at First Baptist Church, Dyer.

Stephens, who has another daughter in addition to Kay, said she "never dreamed one of her daughters would become involved in this area of ministry."

Carroll had worked in the banking industry for about seven years and was "climbing the career ladder" when she became dissatisfied with her career.

At about the same time the secretary who had been at First Baptist, Dyer, for 31 years died and the church began to search for a successor.

"When they opened the position I felt an overwhelming urge that this was what I needed to do," she recalled.

Because her dad is a pastor and her mother is a church secretary, Carroll had some idea of what would be involved. "I knew it would be a ministry and that I would be asked to do things beyond the typed qualifications," she acknowledged.

In addition to enjoying the time with her mother, Carroll noted the secretaries conference not only met her needs by providing her information to do her job better, it also helped remove any doubts she may have had "about walking into a ministry like this." ■

TBCH receives gift of \$50,000

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has received a \$50,000 gift from the estate of Mattie Moore McCartney, a former Lebanon resident and member of Barton's Creek Baptist Church.

"Mrs. Mattie Moore, as she was known, loved the Lord and loved her church," recalled Charles McKnight, former interim pastor at Barton's Creek.

"She was a gracious lady who loved people and they loved her. She was faithful in her offerings and gifts. And her graciousness overflowed from her love for the Lord and the Lord's work."

McCartney, who died last November, taught a children's Sunday School class at

Barton's Creek for many years. Her husband, Houlihan McCartney, died in 1999.

TBCH President Bryn Millsaps expressed appreciation for "this generous gift of love made by Mrs. Moore McCartney for children of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes."

"We are thankful to Barton's Creek Baptist Church where Mrs. McCartney learned about the Children's Homes," he added.

Millsaps described her as an "example to all of the blessing of faithful giving and how all believers give from the overflow of God's blessings."

"Her gift will make an eternal difference in the lives of precious children in need of a home and of God's love for them." ■ — Kim Burke



■ **First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville**, will host the Truth Farewell May 19 at 6 p.m. The group has been singing for 30 years and produced 60 albums. For more information, contact the church at (865) 671-5566 or www.fbconcord.org.

associations

■ **Watauga Baptist Association**, based in Elizabethton, will promote voter registration day May 26. This is directed by the association's anti-lottery team in connection with the vote in Tennessee on the lottery Nov. 5.

■ Senior adults of **Bleeding Heart Baptist Association**, based in Gallatin, will hold Maybe Country Store May 7 at 10 a.m. at Indian Hills Baptist Church, Gallatin. Dr. Jervis, who impersonates Marie Pearl, will speak. For more information, call Theta C. Bell at (615) 841-3391.

■ The Men's Ministry of **Knox County Baptist Association** will hold Adventure Recreation Training May 1 at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour. For more information, contact Bill I. at (865) 546-8546 before 15.

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UPDATE

Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; Phone - (615) 371-2021; FAX - (615) 371-2014; Internet - www.tnbaptist.org/mai/missions/update

From the Group Leader

ighthouses, some of my memories are of lighthouses just alike. Their location dictates the size and shape. Joy climbing the tall slender ladder to see for miles in different directions. The system produces the larger beam of light amazes me. Even in most modern day lighthouses, a rather small light is magnified to produce a strong beam that can be for miles.

order for that light to be for great distances it must be made to shine brightly. The closer you get to the light, the brighter the beam of

am writing this article on airplane on a return trip from Rio de Janeiro. A few days ago, I sat in a lighthouse watching a baptism of some 20 people. I was in "The Light in Lapa." It is actually a church. Tennesseans have had a long impact on starting that church. As a matter of fact, it is one of those churches Tennessee Baptists helped start in last year. Tennesseans helped name the church.

Two things hit me strongly the first was watching the baptism. One young lady was baptized in the water. She went into the water crying. She came out of the water calm and relaxed, as if at peace. The other thing that caught my attention was two men standing at the door of the church. They were talking to passers by, giving them tracts and inviting them into the worship service. Two couples came in at the invitation of the two men. I heard a saying, "The light that shines farthest shines brightest at home." I don't know who made that statement but it was a good one.

The lighthouse at Lapa is almost new, but strong. It is already leaving a strong impact on the community in a tough part of Rio. The beam from the lighthouse at Lapa will affect the world.

How bright is the light of Christ shining at home?

Jim

State secretaries to serve in Canada

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

Almost 30 women and men were commissioned April 10 at the Baptist Center to serve in September on the first Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Association mission team to Canada.

The secretaries will serve in Calgary, Grand Prairie, and Edmonton, Alberta, Sept. 7-15 where they will split into three teams to assist Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, according to Lana Rose, TBC Church Annuity/Church Secretaries specialist.

The first team led by Rose will teach secretarial classes at the Canadian Baptist Seminary and work in the Canadian Convention office in Calgary. The second team led by Kim Huff, TBC Volunteer Missions specialist, will assist churches with secretarial, organizational, and office needs in Edmonton. The third team led by Sara Farmer, former TBCSA president and church secretary for Southwestern Baptist Church, Johnson

City, will assist churches with needs in Grand Prairie.

Participating in the Commissioning Service were other TBC staff representatives: Bill Northcott, Church Staff Leadership specialist; Gary Rickman, Ministry Coordinator/Cooperative Program specialist; William Maxwell, Administrative director; Paul Clark Jr., Church Worship/Music specialist; and Charlotte Hanson, ministry assistant.

Each of the mission team volunteers was given a rose. "You have been given a rose to remind you of God's most precious gift," said Northcott. "Each of you has experienced that grace gift. It is that love in you that motivates you to go to Canada to share your life and Christ's love with the people there. Your gift of ministry

in Canada is a sweet and fragrant love offering to God."

Rickman praised the secretaries for their servant hearts as he led the responsive reading by saying, "As you exercise the gift of administration by taking care of the little things, which leads

to God blessing the big things."

Maxwell encouraged the secretaries to be a faithful witness for God by daily communicating with God, doing the task, showing others what Christ means in their lives, and inviting others to respond to Christ. ■



COMMISSIONED for their service in Canada were, from left, first row, Sharon Ramsey, Lana Rose, Sandra Sartor, Gwen Freeman; second row, Darlene Bell, Linda Williams, Pam Hazlegrove, Kim Huff, Louise Jennings, Mike Overcash; third row, Deenie Russell, Linda Smith, Belvin Cox, Barbara Cox; and fourth row, Derrell Cowden, Sarah Farmer, and Millie Badgett.

Crisis chaplain of Savannah ministers in NYC

For "TBVMN Update"

A Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief trained NOVA chaplain who recently returned from Ground Zero in New York City came home questioning what makes the World Trade Center area hallowed ground.

"I came home wondering what makes this area such a hallowed place," said Mike Stricklin, a Disaster Relief blue cap, member of Hopewell Baptist Church in Savannah, and a Marine veteran. Stricklin joined a South Carolina NOVA team as a replacement when one of their members had to cancel. The team served as crisis counselors for recovery workers.

Stricklin thought, was it the 3,000 lives lost and this to be their final resting place, which makes this hallowed ground? Or is it the coming together of so many people, who are united in their feelings and lifting up so many prayers every day?

"I don't know," he said. "But all that I experienced that week in March humbles me."

According to Stricklin, March 22 he received an email

from Don Pierson, TBC Disaster Relief Crisis Chaplain coordinator, asking if he would go to New York City as part of a NOVA (National Organization for Victims Assistant) team.

"This was what 50 other people, and I had trained for in February at TBC," said Stricklin. "We spent 40 hours that week learning concepts, procedures, and coping tools. We planned and role-played to be prepared. We were told that we could expect to be mobilized by NOVA as well as Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief."

"Now this call was the real thing. As I considered and prayed I realized that I was not — See Crisis, page 8



A RAINBOW IS formed by a spray of water being used to douse the still smoldering ruins last November in New York City. — Photo by Jenni Bear-den of Nashville, who served a week as a World Changer team leader there.

Church DR workers respond to Mo. ice storm victims

For "TBVMN Update"

A seven-member cleanup team from Tusculum Hills Baptist Church in Nashville recently returned from Gladstone, Mo., where they helped helping victims of a severe February ice storm.

The team worked Feb. 7-10 helping 27 families in Missouri. Members of the team from Tusculum Hills Church were: Ed Smith, blue cap, Alan Bartlett, Alton Brown, Mike Hammond, Herb Nelson, Gerald Richmond, and Carroll Smith.

The drive to Raytown, Mo.,

was tense due to black ice on the road and several wrecks. The team stayed at Spring Valley Baptist Church in Raytown where they slept on cots supplied by the Red Cross in Sunday School red rooms.

The group worked in Gladstone, Mo., which is located around 100 miles away from Raytown, where they helped 27 families. The Tusculum Hills Church team worked with a team from Missouri and two teams from Arkansas.

One team from Texarkana, Ark., was from an area where the Tusculum Hills Church team had served in December

2000 during an ice storm.

According to Bartlett, Jerry Creek, Southwest Arkansas Baptist Association director of missions, said that the presence of Tusculum Hills Church team in 2000 had inspired him to start a Disaster Relief team.

Tusculum Hills Church team also worked with John and Virginia Cole, members of First Baptist Church of Huntingdon, who had pulled the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief shower trailer to Raytown.

Tusculum Hills Church team cleaned yards of elderly



CLEANING YARDS of elderly homeowners in Gladstone, Mo. are members of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

homeowners in Gladstone, re-nailed gutters, and had prayer

with the home owners. ■ — Edited from a report.

DR workers provide flood relief

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

Three Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Units responded in March to severe flooding in Bristol, Virginia, and Nashville, according to Tim Bearden, State Disaster Relief director.

A seven-member team from Hardeman Baptist Association Disaster Relief Feeding Unit served over 3,925 meals in Bristol, Va., to 400 displaced families from March floods.

In addition to the Hardeman Association team, two Nashville church units responded locally to help a member of First Baptist Church of Nashville whose home was flooded on the first floor and received structural damage on Reelfoot Drive. Helping with cleanout of the home were teams from Tusculum Hills Baptist Church and First Church of Nashville.

J.D. Moore, a member of First Baptist Church, Middleton, served as blue cap on the Hardeman Unit. Others and

their churches who worked March 21-26 in Bristol were: Max and Barbara Grant, both of Parrans Chapel Baptist Church, Bolivar; Earline Henson, Billy and Faye Tomlinson, all of First Church, Middleton; and Margaret and David Gatlin, both of Dixie Hills Baptist Church of Bolivar.

Five members from Tusculum Hills Church who did carpet removal for Helen Jackson were: Bill Highsmith, recreation/activities/senior adult director; Mike Hammond, Richard Aley, Gerald Richmond, and Steve Qualls.

Others from First Church of Nashville who removed furnishings and carpets were: Jeff Simmons, youth minister; Richard Roselle, Susanna Owens, Hannah Choate, Amanda Hartzell, J.B. Knight, Andrea Knight, and David Knight.

Don Davis, Two Rivers Church Disaster Relief director, coordinated the Nashville effort through a TEMA request. Davis also serves as part of the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Response Coordination Team. ■



WASHING CAMBROS or the insulated containers for meals in Bristol, Va., are, from left, Billy Tomlinson of First Baptist Church, Middleton; and Barbara and Max Grant of Parrans Chapel Baptist Church, Bolivar.

Crisis chaplain of Savannah ministers in NYC

— Continued from page 7
ready, but that God always is. Clinging to Philippians 4:13. I emailed Don to say yes."

By 4:30 p.m. March 23 Stricklin was in New York's LaGuardia Airport looking for transportation to the hotel where his team of six would stay for the next week. He arrived too late to go out with the rest of his team to the site to be briefed on his duties for the next seven days.

Stricklin joined his team the next morning, which included four others and Coy Callicot, who escorted him to Ground Zero on the subway.

When the team walked about four blocks to the "Taj

Mahal," a huge tent within sight of where the World Trade Center once stood, Stricklin felt at home.

"As we entered the tent I saw a welcome sight — yellow caps! Southern Baptist Disaster Relief was set-up in the tent in partnership with the Salvation Army 1 kitchen to provide meals and snacks to all the people working on the site. When I arrived the Disaster Relief kitchen team was from the Northwest Baptist Convention and Missions Ministries strategist Gary Floyd was with them."

Stricklin was shown around and explained procedures for the next week by Callicot. He

was awed by the enormity of the project these people had been working on for the past six months — some of them without an off day.

Part of the team's job was to walk the perimeter of the site one or two times a day where the Salvation Army provided two rest areas on the edge of "The Pit."

According to Stricklin, everything above ground has now been cleared. All that remains of the debris is well below ground level. The trucks at the bottom level being loaded looked like toys to him.

"As we made our way around on this walk, we talked to people at the rest areas, police on

perimeter duty, and workers coming in for a break. The themes in conversations were repeated each day, how many lives had been lost on 9/11, the friends lost, the senselessness of the attack, and the fatigue so prevalent. Although the themes were the same, some expressed it in anger, some in sorrow, and some were so tired that they only said how glad they were that the rest of America had not forgotten them.

"Back in the tent the conversations were much the same. They only added that they so appreciated the meals, and the rest area. Part of what I did was to wake people at times they requested. I remember one

old multi-colored sleeping bag. In the week I was there dozens of people used that bag, most collapsing in exhaustion sleeping from 10 minutes to 6 hours at a time.

"Ground Zero where the World Trade Center once stands is hallowed ground. Three thousand people lost their lives on this spot, an epitaph to evil.

Untold thousands of people have visited there since 9/11. I remember, wonder, and pray. They pray for those lost on 9/11, those left behind, for understanding, for a lessening of the anger, and for even what that threatens to overwhelm them." ■ — Edited from a report.

DR training draws 240

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

The largest Disaster Relief training event held to date by Tennessee Baptists occurred when almost 240 people attended Disaster Relief Training April 12-13 at LindenValley Conference Center, according to Tim Bearden, State Disaster Relief director.

"This was the largest number trained in one place by Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief since the beginning of the ministry in 1987," said Bearden. "It makes you wonder what's God preparing us to do."

"Only one regional Disaster Relief training remains this year, which is Sept. 22-28 at CarsonSprings Conference Center," said Lloyd Blackwell, Disaster Relief Training coordinator. "Due to this overwhelming response and interest, we will offer four regional training

events in 2003."

"Because of the large numbers attending at LindenValley, there were some inconveniences with crowded classrooms and unique sleeping arrangements," added Blackwell. "However everybody cooperated and made it a successful training."

Program personalities and seminars included: Don Davis, Lifelines; Tim Bearden, DR Update, Blue Cap; Lloyd Blackwell, Introduction to DR; Rocky Churchwell, Crisis Counseling; John Cole, Long Term Rebuild; Bill Curington and Gilbert Ray, Mass Feeding Unit; Ronnie Snoderly, Red Cross CPR; Connie Stricklin, Emergency Childcare; Mike Stricklin, Church Preparedness; Larry Triplett, Water Purification, ARC Disaster Services; Doug Flatt, Service and Delivery Support; Curt Fowler, Muc Out; and Mac McClurg, Chainsaw. ■

UT students, other Knoxvilleians minister in Portugal

Rodney Arnold
"TBVMN Update"

A group of 35 students from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville's BCM along with 35 other volunteers from First Baptist Church of Knoxville departed March 15-23 in Portugal.

The UT-Knoxville students spent their spring break participating in various mission activities. After flying to Lisbon, Portugal's capital, as a group, the students were divided into three different cities in the different regions of the country.

The student group stayed in Lisbon while a small group went north to Bombarral and a group of 12 was stationed south in Faro.

The Lisbon group, hosted by IMB missionaries Scott and Sandra George, spent the week in prayer taking multiple prayerwalks around the city and surrounding areas.

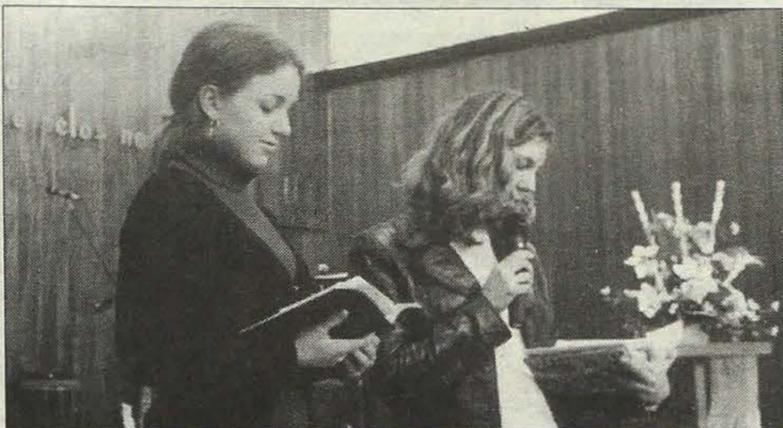
Although at first disappointed to be doing prayer-

walks instead of sports evangelism, which was the initial assignment, the Lisbon team found it turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

"It was frustrating at first because our instinct as Christians is to go out and do something that you see immediate results from," said junior Bill Moore of Richmond, Va. "But as the week wore on, it became evident that prayer was the thing that Lisbon needed the most."

The smaller group in Bombarral focused on ways to spread the gospel through artistic means. By distributing flyers, painting in public places, setting up an art shop, prayerwalking, and participating in an evangelism dinner with Portuguese college students, UT students were made aware of the strong beliefs that some Portuguese Christians hold dear.

The most influential thing to me was meeting Christians in another country and seeing how strong the Portuguese's faith was," said sophomore



UT FRESHMAN Sabrina Boughers, right, reads a verse from the Bible as a Portuguese student waits to translate it during a Sunday night service in a church in Faro, Portugal.

Adam Whitescarver of Atlanta, Ga.

In Faro, students were broken down into even smaller evangelic groups. The 12 students were divided into groups focusing on drama, worship, and teaching English as a Second Language.

However, throughout the week the entire group participated in five church services; painted and cleaned a church; taught English class-

es; and prayerwalked around the city and University of the Algarve.

The group was led by Randy and Joan Howell, college leaders at First Baptist Church, Knoxville, and Susannah Stringfield, a Knoxville native who is finishing her second year as a journeyman in Portugal. Students spent most of the week working with and ministering to the Portuguese college students in the local

church and on campus.

Working with the Portuguese college students turned the mission trip into what many of the students considered an emotional experience since many friendships and relationships developed between Tennessee and Portuguese students and church members.

"Not only did we get to break down language barriers, but relationship barriers as well," said freshman Sabrina Boughers of Bristol, Tennessee. "We saw some Portuguese college students begin to get involved in the church who hadn't done so before we came to Portugal, because of the friendships that we made with them."

Protestant Christians are the minority in Portugal with only one percent claiming to be Evangelic while 97 percent claim Catholicism as their faith. Of this 97 percent, only three percent are practicing members of the church. — Arnold is a journalism/public relations major at UT-Knoxville. ■

Howans, Tennesseans plan

Marcia Knox
"TBVMN Update"

Tennessee's newest partnership with Iowa will focus on where God is working, according to the Iowa Baptist convention's associate executive director.

"The Iowa Convention will focus on Acts 1:8 commitment to Tennessee to help through associational missions to keep our hand on the use of God in Iowa," said Gregory, Iowa associate executive director/missions team leader. "We will know where God is working, and we will work out the details to help you serve. Right now, there are already 25 mission needs that have already been expressed."

Gregory was making the statement to almost 30 Tennessee Baptist directors of missions, who attended a networking for Kingdom growth seminar March 25-26 at the Baptist Center, sponsored by the Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group and the International Mission Board.

Designed to help directors of missions become "On Mission" associational directors, Sam Turner, IMB Partnership Development coordinator of the Associational Strategy Team, led the seminar. Also attending the seminar was David Campbell, IMB Volunteer Missions associate director for Eastern South

America Caribbean Basin. The seminar centered on the Acts 1:8 strategies of action, commitment, telling, and support.

"The harvest is great, but the laborers are few in Iowa," said Gregory. "There are 95 congregations in 50 of Iowa's 99 counties, 79 churches and 16 missions, one SBC church/mission for every 31,500 people, 6 collegiate ministries on 5 campuses, and 7 associations served by 5 associational missionaries/church starter strategists."

Current needs in Iowa are 10 pastors with missions hearts to plant their lives in Iowa, prayer support network for pastors, churches and mission efforts, partnership churches and associations, bivocational pastors, and interim pastors, according to Gregory.

During the closing session of the seminar, a panel of TBC specialists explained how they could assist directors of missions and associations with their programs.

Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist, mentioned partnership countries, which have needs such as Portugal, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Canada, and possibly Scotland.

Also the Volunteer Mission team offers several types of training including Team Leaders for mission teams and Cross-Cultural. ■

Dyer association builds in Rio

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

The wonder of a Baptist association is the unity and harmony between churches to accomplish its goals, according to a Tennessee Baptist director of missions, who recently saw his association build a church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"The common goal of an association is the ability for individual and unique churches to work together to achieve opportunities that they might not have individually," said Joe Wright, Dyer Baptist Association director of missions. "This covers missions, evangelism, discipleship, and a myriad of church related issues and needs."

Wright was speaking about events, which recently led to a 10-member construction team from Dyer Baptist Association that helped build a new church for the First Baptist Church of Adriana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The First Church of Adriana was meeting in a rented one-car garage, which seated 40-50 people, when Wright informed the Dyer Association of the need and asked them to pray about it.

Members of New Mitchell Grove Baptist Church, Halls, got a burden for the mission opportunity, according to Wright. In one night the New Mitchell Grove Church with an average attendance of 30 people raised a love offering of \$12,000 in honor of the

church's former pastor Nolan Criner to build the new church at Adriana and hire a Brazilian building contractor.

This seed money was enough for the building materials. Wright again went to the associations' 41 churches to secure volunteers to help construct the new church building. The new plans for the First Baptist Church of Adriana called for a three-story building in a new location, which would triple the congregation's capacity.

"I shared the mission opportunity with churches, and God placed a burden on certain individuals," Wright said. "They began to raise money. In almost every case, the volunteers' churches helped them raise the money to go. It wasn't just a mission of 10 people, but of all the churches in the association."

Members of the Oct. 26-Nov. 4, 2001, team and their churches were: Jeremy Attaway and Jay Greer, both of Hillcrest Baptist Church; Randy Stephens, Three Oaks



DIGGING A DITCH for a sewer line is Joe Wright, director of missions, Dyer Baptist Association.

Baptist Chapel; Ed Benthal, First Baptist Church; Ricky Boone, Elon Baptist Church; all of Dyersburg; James Bailey, Finley Baptist Church; Gary Wilson, Westside Baptist Church, Halls; and Alan and Terrie Wilks, both of First Baptist Church, Newbern.

Prior to the work done by Dyer Association on the new Adriana Church, a team of 15 volunteers from First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, also worked on the church Oct. 19-28 along with a group of Brazilian workers.

Dyer Association has tentatively scheduled another church construction project and an evangelism revival project in the fall 2002 for Rio de Janeiro. ■

Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions Network UPDATE

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
2002 Rio Projects				
Rio	48349	Evangelism team consisting of a preacher, a music person, and a layperson	9/23-10/1	15-20 teams of 3
Rio	48353	Medical/evangelism clinic	10/25-11/3	50 max
2002 Portugal Projects				
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002106	Conduct children's ministry and basketball camp	7/12-21	50
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002109	Choir/orchestra to perform Christmas music	12/13-21	50
2002 Canada Projects				
Calgary, AB	02MID001	Construction to existing facility working with contractor	May-June	1-50
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL002	General repairs, maintenance, and painting/carpentry	7/1-6	12-15
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL005	Camp for children and teens in new church start area	7/15-19	15-25
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL007	BYBC, recreation, music, puppet ministry in new church start area	6/29-7/6	7-15
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL008	Construct two bathrooms in new church start	7/6-13	10-20
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL009	Build handicap ramp, replace porch and steps, build roof overhang	6/25-7/6	10-20
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL010	Complete apartments used to house missionaries	6/29-7/27	10-20 each week
Cochrane, AB	02MID007	Flyer distribution, park ministry, servant evangelism	6/24-29	5-10
Cochrane, AB	02MID008	Servant evangelism, sports camp, youth events	7/28-8/3	10-20
Delta, BC	02CAP001	Assist with VBS, acts of kindness, and prayerwalks	7/6-13	5-10
Montreal, QB	02QUE003	Renovate building to be used as a church	May-Aug.	5-20
Montreal, QB	02QUE004	Assist church planters in prayerwalks, evangelism distribution, etc.	June-August	4-7
Montreal, QB	02QUE005	Work with church planters in prayerwalks, servant evangelism, etc. on college campuses	3/12-31	5-20
Montreal, QB	02QUE008	Initial missions experience for churches interested in long-term partnerships in Quebec	open	1-100
In and around QB	02QUE009	Prayerwalking	9/7-14	2-20
Penticton, BC	02ALP002	Assist with community outreach in Penticton and surrounding communities through beach ministry, VBS/BYBC, creative ministry, etc.	June-August	1-100 each week
Rouyn-Noranda, QB	02QUE001	Community evangelism, ministry at park, painting, install underground pipes	June-August	5-8
St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, QB	02QUE006	Random acts of kindness and relational evangelism during international camping rally	6/28-7/9	5-15
St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, QB	02QUE007	Children BYBC at local city park	July-August	5-10
St. Albert, AB	02MID004	Sports camp and assist with VBS	July-August	2-3
Verdun, QB	02QUE002	Visitation and children BYBC	July-August	5-10
Victoria, BC	02CAP002	Minister to community through community service projects	July	5-20
Winnipeg, MB	02KEY001	Renovate interior of vacant building to make suitable for worship and classrooms	5/1-7/31	1-100
2002 Iowa Projects				
Ames	IA-02-25	Survey work in community and follow-up work on campus, block parties	9/23-30	15-25
Ames	IA-02-27	Door-to-door survey work, visitation VBS, puppet ministry	6/7-12	10-25
Ames	IA-02-26	Remodel sanctuary and kitchen	open	10-20
Bettendorf	IA-02-41B	Bricklayers	open	open
Carter Lake	IA-02-35	Shingle and gutter roof, finish bathroom, hang drywall, plumbing	open	open
Cedar Rapids	IA-02-31	Lay brick veneer on exterior of 11,000 sq. ft. multi-purpose addition	6/23-28	open
Clinton	IA-02-36	Conduct BYBC, survey work with possible block party. Also need volunteers to paint and repair church	open	30
Clinton	IA-02-40	Evangelistic outreach at community event and block party at church	7/1-8	20+
Des Moines	IA-02-47	Reroof and remodel worship center	6/10-8/20	15-25
Glenwood	IA-02-02	Install doors and porch railings	open	5-7
Independence	IA-02-12	Music on Sunday and visitation during the week for all summer	Summer	2
Independence	IA-02-13	Conduct block parties	6/25-30	10-12
Iowa City	IA-02-42	BYBC at park or homes during day, VBS at church in the evening	6/15-24	7
Lamoni	IA-02-46	VBS in nearby community during day and VBS at church in the evening	6/22-28	10
Newton	IA-02-43	Weekend VBS	7/12-14	open
Sioux Center	IA-02-24	Promote BYBC, survey work, outreach puppets, music	6/3-9	10-40
Stormlake	IA-02-01	Conduct block parties, puppets, music, VBS	open	open
Des Moines	IA-02-37	VBS/BYBC, puppets, block parties, drama, sports, student ministry	July-Aug	no more than 15
Wilton	IA-02-49	Canvassing, block parties, BYBC, revival, VBS	open	up to 15
Equipment Needs				
Cedar Rapids		Church needs at least 3 video projectors for classrooms and one for sanctuary in a new church building.		

Tennessee Project

East Tennessee

► **Alcoa** — Volunteers needed to conduct BYBC at area resort campgrounds, family evening programs, and Sunday morning services. Dates are open.
Individual or couple needed to work with local churches and mission groups in providing BYB Sunday services, and family programs for area campgrounds. Need person to work from May 1 to Sept. 3.
Contact: Kelly Campbell, Chilhowee Baptist Association, 865-982-0499.

► **Kodak** — Volunteers needed to help build 5,000 sq. ft. sanctuary. Contact: Kevin Maples, Kodak Community Baptist Church, 865-932-0405.

► **Knoxville** — Volunteers needed year round (Wednesday and Thursday) to serve in soup kitchen preparing and serving meals.
Volunteers needed year round to work in homeless shelter by serving meals and conducting Bible studies.
Volunteers needed year round to do painting at B & Girls Club and conduct children ministry.
Volunteers needed year round to serve lunch at rescue missions and sort clothes and other items.
Contact: Carol Webb, Knox County Baptist Association, 865-577-6244.

► **Rutledge** — Volunteers needed each week from June 15-Aug. 15 for home repairs, block parties, prayerwalking, BYBC, puppets, music, etc. Contact: Dennis Cagle, Grainger Baptist Association, 865-828-4001.

Middle Tennessee

► **Beersheba** — Volunteers needed to build church. Church will be log construction. Dates are open. Contact: John Gross, Grace Baptist Church, 931-692-3080.

► **Murfreesboro** — Volunteers needed to erect a metal multi-purpose building. Dates: Beginning August. Contact: Bob Dillinger, Murfreesboro Community Church, 615-896-0549.

► **Mt. Juliet** — Volunteers needed to build addition onto existing church building. Contact: Jesse Smith, Fellowship Baptist Church, 615-449-6111.

► **Nashville** — Volunteers needed year round to Bible Studies at Tennessee Prison for Women. Contact: Linda Knott, Donelson, First Baptist Church, Chaplaincy Dept., 615-741-1255.
Volunteers needed from March 29-July 1 to do framing, roofing and bricking on 6,000 sq. ft. church building. Contact: Darren Whitehead, Simeon Baptist Church, 615-612-2163.
Volunteers needed to help build new block building for worship and education space. Plans are for approx. 10,000 sq. feet. Contact: Gideon Olele, Beautiful Gate Church, 615-568-5991.

► **Springfield** — Volunteers needed to conduct prayerwalks and survey in prospective ministry areas and do light construction in the area.
Volunteers (women) needed to conduct Mommies Fair — a one-day event featuring make-overs, cooking classes, budgeting, and other information designed to help low-income mothers better provide for family. Volunteers also needed to provide childcare and lunch.
Volunteers needed to conduct VBS/BYBC at local community center and organize recreation and sports camp for youth.
Volunteers needed to conduct BYBC for preschool and younger children at apartment complex. Mornings would be spent at local food distribution and/or clothing thrift store to sort clothes or prepare food boxes. Dates are open.
Contact: Belita Howard, Robertson County Baptist Association, 615-384-8197.

West Tennessee

► **Ripley** — Volunteers needed to brick an existing metal church building. Dates are open. Contact: Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 731-635-7117.

► **Shelby** — Volunteers needed to build (wood frame) and brick building that will be used as a sanctuary and classrooms. Building is approx. 5,000 sq. ft. Dates are open. Contact: Vaughn Denton, Kirby Parkway Baptist Church, 901-442-3423.

► **Memphis** — Volunteers needed to resurface roof. Dates are open. Contact: Lisa Travis, International Baptist Church, 901-373-6161.
Volunteers to conduct VBS for preschool-youth. Dates: June 15-21. Contact: Durwood Howell, Highland Baptist Church, 901-454-0546.

All international projects are conducted through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. For more information about the above projects, call Tennessee Baptist Convention Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021.

ore than 700 attend

Hundreds attend dramatic arts festival

Todd Starnes
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Hundreds of clowns, actors, dancers, puppeteers gathered at the Bellevue Baptist Church for a celebration of the creative arts in ministry at the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual dramatic arts festival.

"Our Hands, Our Feet, His Spirit" featured more than 100 participants who performed and attended workshops led by a faculty of professional creative arts instructors.

The conference was coordinated by Ev Robertson, a theater and drama professor at Carson-Newman College.

This year, instead of multiple conferences, the dramatic festival was held on one weekend in the midstate.

The annual festival fea-

tured professional drama troupes including Peculiar People, Re:Creations, Christy Haines, Matt Tullos, Scott Shepherd, and Buddy Lamb, among others.

More than 100 faculty led conferences in what Robertson called the largest faculty ever at a state dramatic arts festival.

"We had a tremendous faculty," Robertson said.

"This was an exceptionally strong and tal-



DANIELLE MONTGOMERY of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, came from the audience to join Spunky the Clown, Randy Montgomery of Memphis to demonstrate juggling during the pre-show entertainment of the Dramatic Arts Festival. — Photos by Morris Abernathy of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville

ented group of people. We really appreciate the time they put into making the festival successful."

Festival-goers were encouraged to allow the Holy Spirit to take control of their talents. "When that happens, you really do become a minister," Robertson said. "This isn't just about performing. It's about allowing the Holy Spirit to minister through your performance."

Along with an exhibit hall and shopping gallery, the festival featured workshops on everything from sketch writing to balloon art.

"This has been such a blessing," said Terri Ryon, of the First Baptist Church, Sunbright, Tenn. "It's been so much fun getting to see all

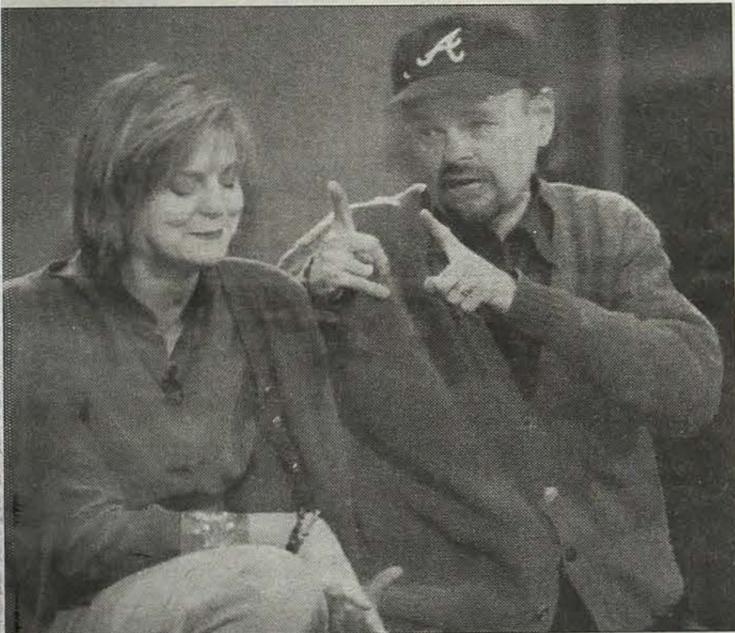
the performances and then being able to ask questions in a small group setting.

Amanda Suggs, of Antioch, said she was blessed by the crowds of people attending the conference.

"At our church we don't have that many people who do drama and sometimes you feel like you are all alone," she said. "But this was thrilling. It was so amazing to walk in and see hundreds of people just like me who love to do drama in the church."

The annual conference is sponsored by the TBC's worship and church music department.

Next year, two conferences will be held, one in the eastern part of the state and the other in the west. ■



PECULIAR PEOPLE, the husband-wife drama team of Charlie and Ruth Jones of Franklin, brought the crowd to its feet several times during their hilarious performances at the Dramatic Arts Festival.



ALL IN THE GRIP demonstrates John Welton, retired drama professor of Carson-Newman College, as he explained a voice technique during an acting workshop.



EV ROBERTSON, left, coordinator of the Dramatic Arts Festival and Carson-Newman College professor, and Barry McAlister take part in a sketch about resisting temptation entitled *The Devil Made Me Do It*.



Hospital offers ways to de-stress

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — With all the activities associated with spring, such as getting kids to their ballgames and dance recitals, and the task of planning summer vacations, spring can be a stressful time.

Tina French, R.N., care coordinator at the Baptist Center of Healing here, suggested, "By learning a few stress awareness and prevention techniques, individuals can significantly reduce the amount of stress they experience daily."

In recognition of National Stress Awareness Day, April 17, French offered the following tips for reducing stress:

► **Remember to breathe.** Breathing is a simple way to reduce stress. Try sitting up straight and inhaling and exhaling slowly.

► **Maintain a healthy diet.** Avoid eating foods that are high in sugar or drinking excessive amounts of caffeine or alcohol. These things can act as powerful stimulants, causing your body to retain stress.

► **Don't deny or hide your feelings of stress.** Often talking with a family member, physician, or trained therapist can help you reduce stress. A trained therapist can help you perceive stress differently and teach you healthy techniques for managing stress.

► **Take a warm bath.** Soaking in a warm bath filled with your favorite bubble bath will help you reduce tension in your muscles that may have developed due to stress.

► **Order in.** If you've had a stressful day, forget cooking and order take-out from a restaurant.

► **Meditate.** Meditation involves relaxed concentration on a single object, resulting in reduced stress.

► **Rest.** Try to get eight hours of sleep each night. This will help you reduce anxiety, mood swings, and poor concentration that could be contributing to your stress.

► **Treat yourself to a massage.** Massage and other healing touch therapies like Reiki can help to relax your mind, body and spirit. They can also be helpful in eliminating pain and fatigue.

► **Laugh often.** Laughter can take your mind off of concerns, forcing your body to change breathing patterns and allowing for reduced tension in your body. ■

Questions can be teachable moments: author

By Mandy Crow
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Based on the sheer number of questions they ask, children may have invented the query.

They ask about everything: "Are we there yet?" "Why is the sky blue?" "Can I stay up late?"

While these may be among some of the favorite childhood questions, a child's interrogative trait sometimes bends to the serious, especially in the areas of Christianity and faith.

For Tommy Sanders, director of childhood ministry publishing at LifeWay Christian Resources and author of a new Broadman & Holman book, *When Can I?*, the many questions from children aren't a nuisance. They are important, and it is equally important that parents and teachers have answers to them, especially when the questions concern faith issues.

"Children begin the journey toward faith in Christ at the very first teachable moments," said Sanders, a pre-kindergarten Sunday School class teacher at First Baptist

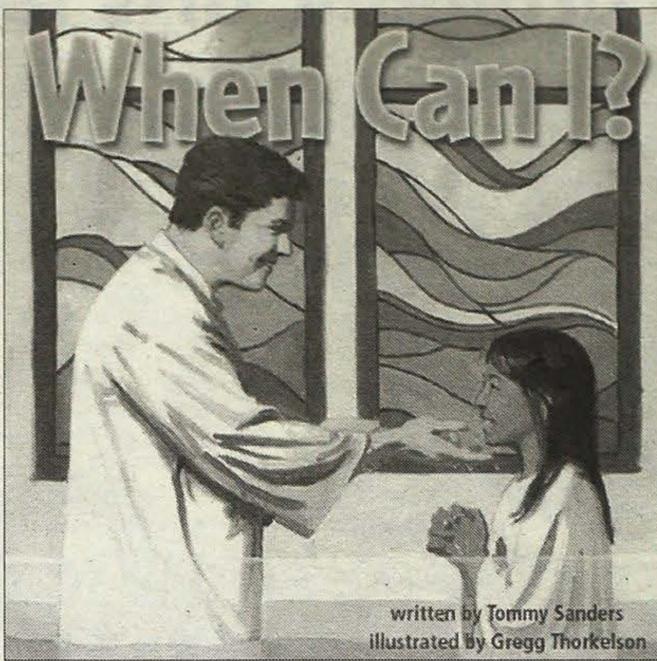
Church, Goodlettsville. "Our goal should be to partner with the Holy Spirit all along the way."

The book seeks to equip parents and teachers to guide children on their spiritual journey, while also providing resources to answer questions about baptism, communion, and becoming a Christian.

"Leading our children to know, love, trust, obey and follow Christ is not just an event or an occasion," Sanders said. "It is a journey that begins at birth."

Written to help children understand the steps essential to the Christian life, the book contains four stories, each focusing on a specific question about faith and Christianity, including baptism, communion, why Jesus came, and how to become a Christian.

All four stories are told with the young reader in mind. The first two stories are



written on a kindergarten level, while the last two deal with deeper issues of faith for older readers.

A special section follows each story in the book, providing suggested follow-up questions and guidance in dealing with the specific faith issues for authority figures such as parents, teachers, or ministers.

"*When Can I?* gives parents, teachers and ministers words,

phrases, and questions that are more understandable for children," Sanders said. "While there is no separate or watered-down version of the gospel for children, the language of adults and the church can be confusing to them."

The book should help adults avoid misunderstandings and create an environment that encourages the child to express his feelings and faith in his own words, Sanders said.

"The ultimate goal of the book," he said, "is to be a tool to better equip adults in counseling children and to give boys and girls answers" to questions they might have about accepting Jesus.

In addition to featuring stories for children and insights for parents and teachers, *When Can I?* includes illustrations by Gregg Thorkelson, a freelance illustrator from Idaho. ■



Middle Tennessee pastors to meet in Murfreesboro

For Baptist and Reflector

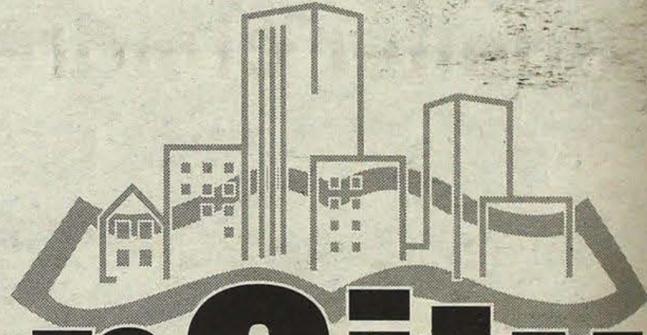
MURFREESBORO — The Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference will be held May 21 at Northside Baptist Church here.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and go through noon. Lunch will follow.

Guest speakers include Sherrel Nave, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Johnson City, and Jeff LaBorg, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, Savannah.

Music will be provided by the Northside Baptist music ministry and Scott Barritt.

For more information, call Terry Wilkerson, president of the Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference at (615) 286-1252. ■



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Woman leads jail ministry in Sparta

Connie Davis
Artist and Reflector

SPARTA — When Ruby Baker of Gum Springs Baptist Church, Walling, was raising children she told them she would rather see them in a coffin in jail or on drugs. Then one of her children became addicted to cocaine and served 14 months in a county jail for taking the drug.

Thankfully that child became drug-free, has been drug-free for 16 years, and helps others who have drug addictions through Narcotics Anonymous.

Baker thought her association with prison and criminals was over.

Then her husband, Jim, became involved in Gideon Internationals and she joined the Gideon Auxiliary. She turned one of the responsibilities of the auxiliary was jail ministry.

So when the couple lived in Marietta, Baker began a jail ministry there which she led for two years. And after they moved to Sparta about two years ago she started a ministry at the White County Justice Center in Sparta.

Each week

Each Monday she goes to the jail to minister to the inmates who wish to meet with her. From several to as many as 24 inmates attend, reported Baker.

During the four months of 2002, 17 women inmates have made professions of faith as a result of the ministry, said Baker. Recently, the sheriff, a deputy, and another woman from an area church who leads a ministry for the inmates accompanied nine of the women to First Baptist Church, Sparta. They were baptized there by Steve Jones, pastor, Gum Springs Church.

Women inmates

Baker said she has learned a lot from the ministry, especially about the women who are in jail.

"These ladies could be your daughters, sisters, or mothers," she described. "They have made some poor choices in life. But in most cases they realize

their mistakes."

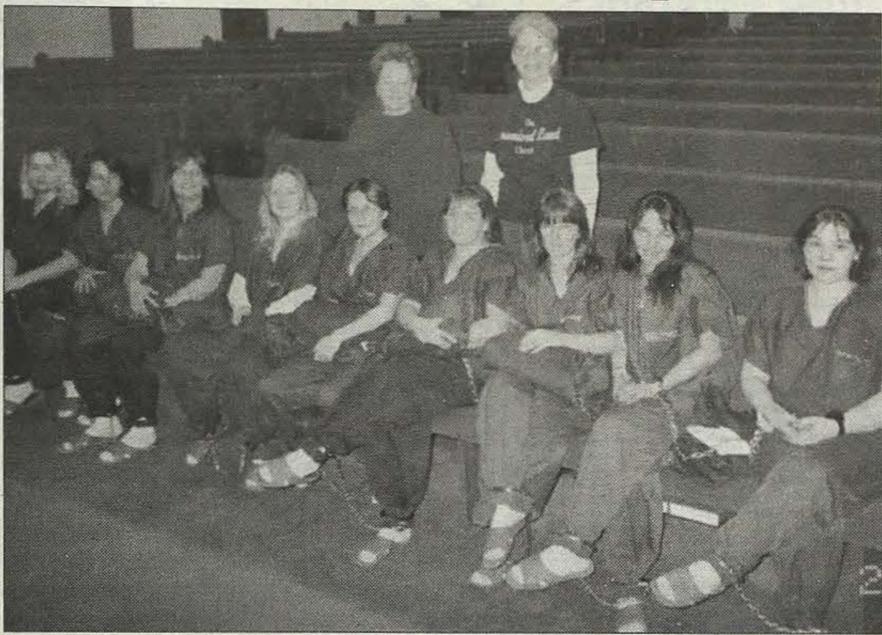
Many of their crimes aren't as bad as many people would think, she explained. They just got caught, she added.

The gospel helps them know that God views all sin as the same, Baker pointed out.

Although she can't help them after they are released at this time, Baker said the former inmates need help.

"These gals get out of jail full of hope and expectation only to not be able to find a job or place to stay. And then they don't have the money to pay the needed probation fees," she said.

When the fees are not paid they are arrested again and spend time in jail they could be



RUBY BAKER standing, left, Gum Springs Baptist Church, Walling, and Mary Mills, another ministry leader at the jail, pause recently with nine inmates at First Baptist Church, Sparta, before their baptism there.



free on probation. One of the main problems is they return to the situations which influenced them to commit crimes. Often those situations are their families, said Baker.

Help needed

Former inmates need spiritual help, but they also need other things, noted Baker. For instance, they need transitional programs or ministries and jobs, she said.

"I have read some of the poetry, seen some of the artwork, and watched as some of them work to keep themselves busy. Some would make valuable employees," stated Baker.

Inmates, whether women or men, also need encouragement, said Baker. People can encourage them by visiting them or sending them a card.

And Christians can pray for them, added Baker.

"This is the only thing that really changes them," she explained. ■

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Psalms 36:7



TBCH houseparent Kim Robinson and campus children.



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Legal opinion says MBC 'owns' five agencies

Associated Baptist Press

ROACH, Mo. — Five Missouri Baptist Convention agencies should rescind actions allowing them to elect their own trustees and recognize trustees elected by the state convention, according to a legal opinion obtained by a task force of the MBC executive board.

Made public after presentation to board members in a two-hour executive session April 9, a report of a legal-opinion task force said trustees of the Baptist Home, Windermere Baptist Conference Center, Missouri Baptist College, Missouri Baptist Foundation, and *Word and Way* lacked legal standing to change their charters without the convention's permission.

"The law is clear that the Missouri Baptist Convention has the legal right to control these agencies," the task force said, citing opinions it obtained from three law firms.

The task force said the five agencies "must recognize new trustees duly elected by the MBC, and must remove any trustees not duly elected by the MBC" and "rescind any decisions that are not approved by the executive board of the MBC."

While the report suggested that the convention might prevail in a lawsuit, MBC president Bob Curtis, who appointed the task force in December, said he hopes the dispute can be resolved out of court. "It is our desire that biblical restitution and reconciliation will take place," he said.

According to the task force report, the MBC is the sole owner of the five agencies. ■

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Celebration set for long-time music educator

For Baptist and Reflector

SHAWNEE, Okla. — Plans for a 95th birthday celebration of Warren M. Angell, dean emeritus of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts at Oklahoma Baptist University here, have been announced by Richard Huggins, chairman of the committee planning the event.

The weekend celebration will be held May 24-26 in Black Mountain, N.C., the summer home of Angell and his wife, Twyla. Alumni of OBU's Bison Glee Club and Bisonette Glee Club are especially invited, but the event is open to anyone, Huggins said.

Angell headed the OBU music program for 37 years, influencing thousands of graduates. In addition to serving as an educator, he authored five books on vocal and choral techniques and had more than 50 composi-

tions and arrangements published.

Angell's graduates are embedded in Southern Baptist life in "virtually every state where there is Baptist work," including Tennessee, Huggins said.

More information including an on-line registration form can be found on a new web site, www.WarrenAngell.com. ■

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MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., is seeking a pastor. We are a small congregation of 154 members with a stable, active core group of about 70. Our historic building is located in a fast-growing suburban area, near Union University. Our congregation still has the closeness typical of small, rural churches. That closeness is sustained through frequent fellowship, prayer, and ministry. If God is calling you to join us as we seek to share these gifts with the unchurched and unsaved in our community, send your resume to Pastor Search Committee, Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, 331 Pleasant Plains Rd., Jackson, TN 38305.

Brunswick Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Send resume to Brunswick Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 100, Brunswick, TN 38014.

Salem Baptist Church in Salem, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, c/o David Kelley, 785 Condra Rd., Smithland, KY 42081 or e-mail to davdwkey1@aol.com.

MINISTRIES — STUDENTS

Seeking full-time minister of students (children & youth). Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 373, Glenwood, AR 71943.

First Baptist Church, McMinnville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister to youth. Send resume and cover letter to First Baptist Church, Attn. Youth Minister Search Committee, P.O. Box 508, McMinnville, TN 37111.

Part-time youth minister wanted at Antioch First Baptist Church, 2601 Una-Antioch Pike. Fax resume to (615) 832-6486 or call church office at 832-7486.

Monte Vista Baptist Church of Maryville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of youth and young adults. We are affiliated with CBF and SBC. Send resume and recommendations to Monte Vista Baptist Church, 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd., Maryville, TN 37803.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Houseparents. Immediate need for full-time relief houseparents at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga and Cleveland. Married couples only. Call Bob Segrest or Lynn Jordan at (423) 892-2722.

MINISTRIES — POSITIONS

Hunter First Baptist Church, growing and Christ-exalting church located in beautiful Elizabethton, Tenn., is seeking to fill two full-time staff positions of minister of young adults/singles and music/worship. Resumes may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to Hunter First Baptist Church, Attn. Search Committee, 693 Highway 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643; fax: (423) 543-2948; e-mailed ddeese@hunterfirst.com.

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Parks City Baptist Church is currently seeking a music director to fill a part-time position. Send resume to 2809 Huntsville Highway, Fayetteville, TN 37334. Call (931) 433-6374.

Seeking minister to lead a growing congregation in worship and all music programs. Send resumes to Sherwood Forest Baptist, c/o Search Committee, Goodman Rd., Rome, GA 30161; e-mail: sherwood@romeman.net.

First Baptist Church, Waverly, is seeking a part-time music minister. Send resume to Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 299, Waverly, TN 37185 or call (931) 296-2348.

First Baptist Church, Rockwood, is prayerfully seeking enthusiastic full-time minister of music for blended services (average attendance of 275). Seminary preferred. Send resume and video to First Baptist Church, Rockwood, Attn. Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 54, Rockwood, TN 37854.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Located in Middlesboro near the entrance to historical Cumberland Gap National Park in Southeastern Kentucky, the church averages 150-180 morning worship. We are a mission-minded church ready to grow. The church has a minister of music, minister of education, minister of preschool and children, and a growing youth ministry. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40901 by May 25, 2002.

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale: Allen electric organ, model LT-12B. Two manuals, very good condition, includes speakers. \$2,500 obo. Cumberland Drive Baptist Church, (931) 647-5088.

Minister's Corner

by Martin Babb

Once upon a time I played softball. In fact, it was remarkable how softly I played. People used to travel from all over my household

to watch me play. When I slid I stirred up enough dirt to cover Oklahoma, and that was just getting out the car. My fans under the stands would scream and yell my name every time I headed for the outfield. My nickname was almost "The Babe." That would have been disrespectful of Babe Ruth so I was "The Babe," which was awfully close. (Out of all the names they called me it is the only one printable.) If on that occasion when I would make contact with the ball I would say, "What was that? I thought I felt something." I hit so many ground balls that as soon as I popped up to the plate worms would hide their young. There was one game where I was cheered. I was the path player and it kept us from forfeiting. It felt great to be needed.

The first episode of "The Andy Griffith Show" centered around Opie's first meeting with Aunt Bea. She had been taking care of Opie but she got married and moved. Enter Aunt Bea. She could not do anything as well as Rose. She tried real hard, even trying to learn how to swing a baseball bat like Rose. Things didn't work out and she decided to move on. She and Andy were outside at the car saying goodbye, unaware that Opie was watching and listening from his upstairs window. Finally, he could not stand it any longer and ran downstairs, out the door, and yelled for Aunt Bea not to leave. Andy was caught completely by surprise and asked Opie what changed his mind. Opie pondered, "Well if she goes, what will happen to her? I doesn't know how to do anything — play baseball, catch fish, or hunt frogs! She'll be helpless! So that's why she's gotta stay, so I can teach 'em to her!" Opie then hugged Aunt Bea and said, "You need me!"

On the road to Damascus Paul was blinded by a light and met Jesus. In his first letter to the church at Corinth he wrote that the church is like a body, all the parts dependent upon each other. The body could not function properly if any part was not doing its job and each part is more important than the other.

On the road to Mayberry I was blinded by a light, and a famine was in the form of a six-year old boy. Sometimes light shines where we least expect it. I didn't meet Jesus but I did discover a theology of need. You see, not everyone in the church can play baseball, catch fish, or hunt frogs, but we can learn from each other. We are all part of the same body — and we need each other with our different gifts. That is the gospel according to Paul — and Opie. ■ — Babb is associate pastor, education at Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield.

Just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Memphis



Start With a Smile: Carl to marriage counselor: "I've been married 10 years but I have a terrible marriage problem." MC:

"Tell me all about it." Carl: "When I first married and came home from work, my wife would bring me my slippers and my dog would hover around barking. Now, when I come home, my dog brings me my slippers and my wife hovers around barking." MC: "Well, the bottom line is you're still getting the same service. What's the problem?"

Take this Truth: Wouldn't you like to be the kind of person our dog thinks you are and the kind your wife wishes you were?

Memorize this Scripture: "A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his father." — Proverbs 10:1

Pray this Prayer: Lord, grant that I shall never disappoint those who look up to me.

Promise of restoration

By Charles Fritts

Focal Passage: Amos 8:11-12; 9:5-15

Some promises are unbelievable. Such as my wife saying: "I can be in and out of K-Mart in 10 minutes." You know that's not going to happen.

Some promises only seem unbelievable. Such as God's promise to Israel of judgment. He has given His reasons (previous lessons). Now He asserts His right to judge (ch. 9:5-6). He is sovereign Lord whose dwelling place is in the heavens. He requires certain things from His people and has been ignored. Who can stand against Him? Who can question His right? He is in control. Not Israel, not us. A huge lesson that Israel (and we) need to learn: God is who He is and not who rebels imagine Him to be. He will do what He deems right and if God deems it right, it is. God promises both judgment and restoration.

Judgment: (8:11-12, 9:5-10)

He warns of a famine to come (ch. 8:11-12). Famine and drought were two things Israel knew and feared. Yet, this famine is of another kind. It is a famine of hearing from God. Previously they had ignored God's Word and His prophets. Now, they will hunger for it. They will wander in search of it... and not find it. What is the saying? "You don't miss the water till the well goes dry."

Family Bible SS Lesson — April 28

Well, the well is going dry. A part of judgment is God saying: "OK, have it your way. You don't want it, you don't have it." They (we) will learn that shallow worship, no matter how elaborate, will not satisfy. Only a submission to God's Word will.

He warns them of their elitist and superior attitude (ch. 9:7). Some how they had developed the idea that God was "for us" and "against them." They had grown religiously arrogant toward other peoples. For Israel (or us) to presume on the mercy of God will not be overlooked. They had conveniently forgotten that part of their covenant that they were to be, "a light to the Gentiles." God's view is worldwide and may God forgive a nation or a church that has a narrow "us and our's" view.

He warns them of destruction and dispersion. (vv. 8-10)

They've been warned for years. They've ignored the warning and now they will discover that God really does keep His promises. Death, despair, destruction, and dispersion are on the agenda. This is the inevitable result of persistent rebellion. To the end, misguided positive thinkers will deny the evil in Israel or the evil they are about to face (vv. 10b). Their ancestors still preach today. Their message is: "Enjoy the privileges, ignore the responsibilities." And God still weeps.

Yet, in His warnings, God (through Amos) gives a glimmer of hope (v. 8b).

Practice holy living

By Thurman Seber

Focal Passage: Ephesians 4:17-32

Paul had something to say to the Gentile believers in Ephesus. It was from God and of the utmost importance to them in their Christian walk. If they were to walk worthy (ch. 4:1), they must not walk as other Gentiles walked (v. 17).

They were to live their life for God. Although they were once as other Gentiles, such a lifestyle was no longer acceptable. There were certain qualities which were characteristic of the unbeliever. He lists four things that marked the walk of the unsaved Gentiles, with admonitions that they avoid such behavior.

(1) They were not to be unthinking concerning the truths of God. Many worldly wise are empty and ignorant of spiritual understanding (v. 17).

(2) They were not to be unseeing because of blindness within (v. 18).

(3) They were not to be unfeeling because of the hardness of their heart (v. 19). Many are those who have become hardened by sin.

(4) They were not to be unclean as were the unsaved Gentiles (v. 19).

If they were to live their life for God, they must learn Christ (v. 20). This does not mean that they were

to learn the historical facts concerning Jesus, they would need to learn Christ Himself. If we are also to learn Christ, He must be a living reality. We may learn of Abraham Lincoln but we can not learn him personally. Many know about Jesus who do not really know Him as Lord and Savior.

Paul felt sure they knew the facts about Jesus (v. 21). The Holy Spirit must lead them to go beyond the cold hard facts and into a live relationship with a living Lord.

Learning Christ makes one become a new creature (v. 22). I fear that many are trying to be Christians without experiencing this basic change of nature. Without this change, the Gentile church members would act, talk, and live about like the unbelievers. Let us always remember that Jesus said, "Ye must be born again."

When we become a new person in Christ, we are made new in our spirit and in our mind. This new person will have a new heart, with a new way of thinking, and a new way of acting. If this has never happened, that person is still in their sin.

With a heart full of Jesus, there is little room for our old way of thinking, feeling, and acting. A believer can allow no room for the devil to operate inside him. We are not

Destruction, yes, but not total. Contrary to some, this promise of destruction is not the total elimination of Israel from God's plans. Remember however, it is not a matter of Israel surviving but of God preserving. How could one stand in "the day of the Lord," if not for the mercy of God?

God promises restoration (vv. 11-15). When Amos looked at man, he was pessimistic. When he looked at God, he grew optimistic. He could see an eternal kingdom, prosperous and productive. He could see David's fallen kingdom restored to even greater proportions. A new day is coming. A regathering of God's people, all of God's people. It is difficult to find the fulfillment of this in either Israel's return from exile or in the spiritual (invisible) kingdom of believers today. It seems to require a future fulfillment. Perhaps our own generation lives in the prelude of the fulfillment. A time when the Son of David will finish God's program for the ages.

A time when God keeps His promise. Those unbelievable promises of judgment, which He kept, and His promise of a great ingathering of His people, which He shall keep. Even so, come Lord Jesus. — Fritts is pastor of First Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

to give Satan a place to live inside us.

These simple truths are spelled out by Paul:

(1) Lying must be put away (v. 25). Honesty and truth telling are basic to the Christian faith. How can a Christian be a liar?

(2) Anger must be controlled (v. 26). We cannot allow an angry, bitter spirit to ruin our testimony. How can a Christian live with an angry spirit?

(3) The believer must not steal (v. 28), but rather work honestly for his living.

(4) Lastly, we must clean up our mouth (v. 29). How many believers lose their testimony by filthy talk?

If they were going to live for God, if they had learned Christ, they would listen to the Holy Spirit. The Trinity was very much a part of the theology of Paul. Any unchristian activity would grieve the Holy Spirit which had sealed them. They were both preserved and marked, or sealed, by God at the moment of this great inward change. Kind and tender hearts would replace mean, bitter spirits.

Have you noticed how some Christians seem to have an inner glow? Is it evident that something is different with them? That difference is a result of the change into a new person and the abiding presence of God in their life. God help me be like that. — Seber is pastor of Upper Helton Baptist Church, Alexandria.



state/national
news

Southern Baptists asked to pray for the Tuareg people

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The name of one unreached people group in West Africa literally means “abandoned by God.”

On May 19, Southern Baptists will ask God to help that people group, the Tuareg, know just how much He really loves them.

Once Tuareg camel caravans transported everything from salt to slaves across the Sahara. But now the nomadic people group follows their declining herds through barren regions of Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso in search of scarce pasture. Many

Tuareg have fled the ravages of drought to pitch their tents on the fringes of cities like Tombouctou, Mali.

The Tuareg face many uncertainties, not the least of which is how to survive in a world less and less hospitable to the nomad's lifestyle. One thing, however, is certain: 99.9 percent of the Tuareg do not know the love and forgiveness of God. The vast majority of them have never even heard the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

That is one reason Southern Baptists will focus on the Tuareg on the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, scheduled this year for May 19.

The Tuareg's nomadic lifestyle makes it hard to accurately count them, and population estimates range anywhere from 500,000 to 3 million. The name identifies a collection of ethnic groups — Arabs, Berbers, and Bellas — who speak a common language, Tamashek.

The Tuareg's wandering ways also have kept them from being staunch practitioners of the Muslim religion. Because of

this, their Muslim neighbors named them “Tuareg,” literally “abandoned by God.”

Forced from the desert by drought, the Tuareg now are learning to farm and sell crafts. A new generation is growing up and learning the softer ways of city life.

But one Tuareg Christian sees these difficult circumstances as God's way of reaching his people with the gospel.

“The drought is a way to pierce the strongholds of the people,” says “Noch” (not his real name). “The droughts bring the people in from the desert. It makes the people change, and when there is change there is an open door for the gospel. The door may only be open a crack, but it is still open.” ■

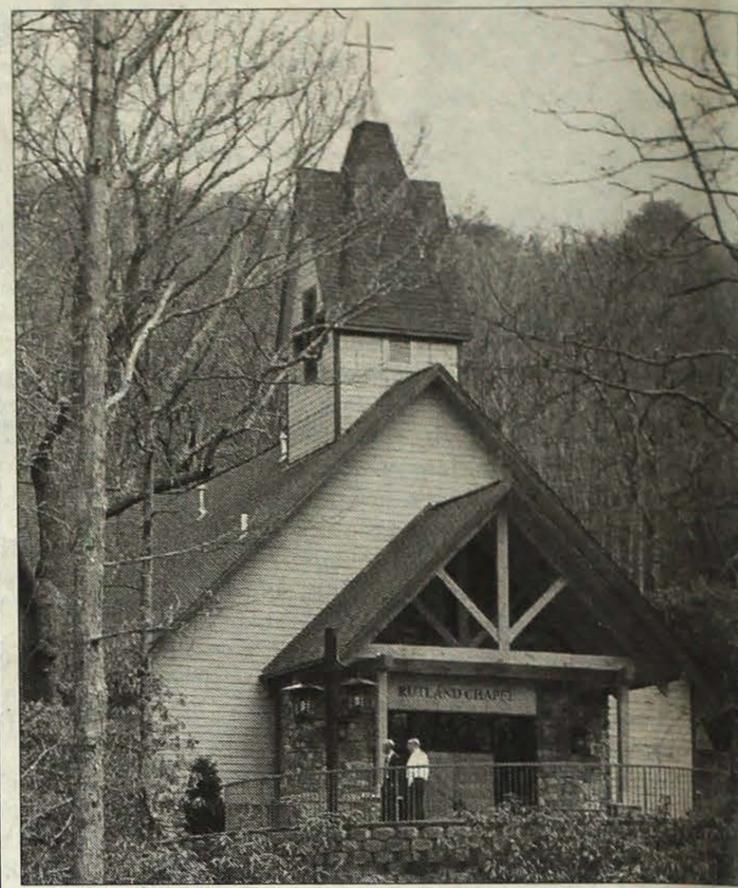
President pushes Senate to adopt ban on cloning

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush pressed the U.S. Senate April 10 to approve a comprehensive prohibition on human cloning, even as supporters of such a ban expressed hopes momentum had swung their way.

In a White House speech to backers of a total ban, Bush called it a mistake if the Senate were “to allow any kind of human cloning to come out of that chamber.”

The president endorsed a bill that would prohibit cloning for reproductive and research purposes. The Human Cloning Prohibition Act, S. 1899, stands in contrast to other bills in the Senate that would bar reproductive cloning but would allow



LifeWay dedicates new chapel

Rutland Chapel, the new 300-seat chapel on the grounds of LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest, N.C., was dedicated April 10. The chapel was made possible by a \$1 million donation from the Rutland Family Foundation in Decatur, Ga. George Beverly Shea, longtime vocalist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and a resident of the area, sang during the dedication service.— Photo by Jim Veneman

the cloning of human embryos in order to obtain stem cells for research into cures for various diseases. Cloning for research requires the destruction of an embryo, an act that would be mandated under legislation other than S. 1899.

“Human cloning is deeply troubling to me and to most Americans,” Bush said. “Life is a creation, not a commodity.

Allowing cloning would be taking a significant step toward a society in which human beings are grown for spare body parts and children are engineered to custom specifications, a goal that's not acceptable.”

Any law other than one with a comprehensive ban on cloning would be not only unethical but impossible to enforce, the president said. ■

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Tennesseans to help build Canadian seminary

Leaders from the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, broke ground March 18 for 18 new student apartments. Founded in 1987, the Canadian Seminary is the only theological school of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, comprised of 163 churches. The cost of the construction project is estimated at \$1 million in U.S. dollars. The cost will be minimized through volunteer labor. Three Tennessee Baptist groups are slated to help with the construction this summer. They include First Baptist Church, Nashville; Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, and First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. Pictured, from left, are Maurice Kandala, an Arabic student from Nazareth; D.K. Hale, partnership coordinator for the CCSC; Kelly Black, student from British Columbia; Richard Blackaby, seminary president; Perry Davis, facilities manager; and Melvin Wells, professor of church music.